



CONVICT TAKES OVER

The West German Government has appointed a convicted war criminal to command the West German Armed Forces. The convict, Friedrich Foertsch, will take over the post of Inspector General of the Bundeswehr on April 1st. Here, in dry court language, is the verdict of the Soviet War Crimes Tribunal, handed down on June 29th 1950:

Verdict

The accused Friedrich Foertsch was active from June 1942 to May 1945 on Soviet territory, first as Chief of Operations on the General Staff of the 18th German Army, and then as Chief of General Staff of the Kurland Army Group of the German Army, all of which operated in the areas of Pskov, Novgorod and Leningrad and in the Estonian and Latvian Soviet Socialist Republics; the accused:

- a) issued criminal orders for the evacuation of Soviet civilians from the areas of Pskov and Ostrov in 1944;
- b) ordered punitive expeditions against Soviet civilians in connection with military operations against Soviet partisans;
- c) introduced particularly cruel conditions in the camps for Soviet POWs;
- d) ordered Soviet civilians and POWs to do forced labour on fortifications for the German troops;
- e) ordered the destruction of railway lines and buildings during the German withdrawal from the areas of Leningrad, Novgorod and Pskov.

In addition, the accused Foertsch permitted troops and units under his command to destroy the cities of Pskov, Novgorod and Leningrad; to raze historical works of art in Gatchina, Peterhof, Pavlovsk and Pushkin; he allowed soldiers and officers of the troops under his command to plunder and to commit bestial crimes against Soviet civilians in the territories named, and against Soviet POWs.

The court finds him guilty of the above crimes, and sentences him to 25 years' imprisonment.

Now turn the page for more details of the incredible case of the convicted war criminal who now becomes West German Commander in Chief.

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

PROMOTION IN WEST GERMANY . . .

Lieutenant General Friedrich Foertsch, new Inspector General of the West German Army, Navy and Air Force, is 60 years of age. He has been a professional soldier since 1918; the only break in his career was provided by the ten years he served in jail as a convicted war criminal.

After a humdrum period of military service during the Weimar Republic, Foertsch was sent to the Reich War Academy in 1932, and emerged as a fully-trained general staff officer.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he was serving with the rank of major as General Staff Officer of the 3rd Army Corps in Berlin.

In October 1939 he was appointed Operations Officer of the 60th Infantry Division, and he planned the operations of this division during the invasion of France.

In June 1942, after a period on the staff of the Reserve Army, he was promoted to colonel, and transferred to the eastern front as Chief of Operations of the 18th German Army. Promotion came quickly, to Major General and then to Lieutenant General. When the war ended Foertsch was Chief of General Staff of the Kurland Army Group. With this army group he was captured by the Soviet Army at the beginning of May 1945.

The Soviet military tribunals, established in accordance with inter-allied decisions on the detection and punishment of war criminals, were overloaded with work when the war ended, and it was not until June 1950 that Foertsch came before the court. The investigations had been very thorough: the documents presented to the court in the case of Friedrich Foertsch filled three whole volumes — a total of nearly one thousand pages of testimony. The witnesses heard in the case included Soviet civilians and POWs, and also captured German officers and soldiers, such as Artillery General Herzog, who testified that Foertsch had ordered the forcible evacuation of Soviet civilians; Captain Struefing, who testified that he had been ordered by Foertsch to devastate the district of Novgorod and liquidate the civilian population; and the German Major General Kollani, who testified that Soviet

Protest

Readers of GERMAN REPORT who would like to protest against the appointment of a convicted war criminal as commander of the West German armed forces should write to the local Embassy of the German Federal Republic. The address in London is:

Embassy of the German Federal Republic
Belgrave Square
London W. 1

civilians had been driven out to construct military fortifications on Foertsch's orders.

Dozens of Soviet civilians who had managed to survive the massacres have testified in detail on crimes committed on Foertsch's orders. Mrs Y. I. Belayeva stated: "On January 4th 1944 the Germans rounded up all civilians in the village of Gorushka, about 100 persons, including myself and my five children, the youngest five years old. They drove us to a house in the middle of the village and fired at us with machine guns... Then they threw hand-grenades amongst us, covered the pile of corpses with straw, and set fire to this and to the houses. I was wounded in the head and side. When my clothes began to burn I crept out from under the corpses. I felt for my children. They were dead."

At the end of June 1950, after being found guilty by the Soviet tribunal, and sentenced to 25 years imprisonment, Foertsch was sent to a convict prison.

After serving five years of his sentence, he had a great stroke of luck. In September 1955, the Soviet Government, in its efforts to clear away the

last remnants of the Second World War and to contribute to the relaxation of tension, amnestied 8877 minor German war criminals and sent them back to Germany.

The crimes committed by 749 war criminals, including Foertsch, were judged to be so serious that they were declared "non-amnestied war criminals", and were handed over to the German Democratic Republic and West Germany, according to their permanent place of residence.

The war criminals handed over to the GDR were sent to prison to serve out the remainder of their sentences; the criminals handed over to West Germany were immediately released, feted as "heroes", and received large grants of money as "late-returning POWs".

Many of them vanished into obscurity, but not Foertsch. Less than a year after his release he was appointed Major General of the new West German Bundeswehr, and given command of a division. The only negative result of his imprisonment was that he was down-graded from Lieutenant General, his last rank in the Nazi Wehrmacht, to Major General. Within a few months he was promoted once again to his old rank: since January 1st 1959 he has been serving in NATO HQ in Paris as Deputy NATO Chief of Staff.

Footnote: West German newspapers, reporting Foertsch's new appointment, almost unanimously failed to mention that he was a convicted war criminal; they simply stated that he had been held as a POW in the Soviet Union for a long period. Instead, they reported that the new West German C-in-C is a lover of classical music.

. . . RETRIBUTION IN GDR

Ex-SS Sergeant Kurt Goercke, guilty of thousand-fold murder during the war, was sentenced to death by a court in the German Democratic Republic on February 22nd. Goercke had tried to keep his past a secret since the war but alert citizens of Neubrandenburg finally became suspicious and reported him to the police.

Goercke was proven to have personally killed at least 130 innocent men, women and children and to have taken part in sending thousands of Jews to their death in gas chambers, to shooting hospital patients and destroying their bodies and other crimes. He also beat prisoners into unconsciousness with steel rods and other implements during cross-examinations.

NATO BISHOPS BARRED

A number of West German church leaders were refused admission to East Berlin on February 12th when they attempted demonstratively to attend a church service in the capital of the German Democratic Republic. The church leaders, including two bishops, who were turned back at the Brandenburg Gate on the sector border between the two halves of Berlin, all actively support NATO policy and recruitment for the West German Wehrmacht. Western newspapers described the ban on the bishops as "interference in the affairs of the church".

In an interview Friedrich Ebert, Lord Mayor of East Berlin, stated that this measure had been taken solely because of the political activities of the churchmen involved. "The Evangelical Synod (Church Assembly) had planned to hold a meeting in the Marien Church in East Berlin. This meeting was banned since the dominant circles of the Evangelical Church have given active support to the NATO policy of the Bonn Government and to atomic arms for Bonn, Lord Mayor Ebert stated. "These forces intended to stage a demonstration in a church in the capital of the German Democratic Republic. We have repeatedly stressed that there is no place in the capital of the German Democratic Republic for NATO politicians, whatever dress they may wear.

"The ban on the meeting of the Evangelical Synod did not affect the holding of the usual church service on Sunday in the Marien Church."

Two days earlier Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic, had consulted with leading Evangelical churchmen of the Republic. The churchmen presented a memorandum, signed by 32,000 members of Christian congregations, supporting the peace policy of the GDR. The delegation of churchmen included Professor Emil Fuchs, Professor of Theology at Leipzig, three other professors of theology, and five prominent Evangelical pastors. In the course of the discussion Walter Ulbricht outlined his views upon relations between the State and the Church. He said:

"We are convinced that the common goal of all socialists, communists, Christians and other humanist citizens, that is to say ensuring peace in Germany, can only be attained if German militarism is put under control. To our sorrow we see in the ranks of the unteachable militarists once again churchmen; and in West

Germany these gentlemen even dominate the church leadership.

"We are sorry to see that the ruling circles in West Germany have managed to harness the West German churches to their un-Christian chariot of war preparations. In the past years the exponents of the West German church have made every effort to destroy the basis for co-operation with the Government of the German Democratic Republic. Many of the decisions and actions of these church circles have been, quite openly, acts of cold war against the German Democratic Republic. I do not need to give details or to cite the names of the NATO politicians who wear the cloth of the church. By signing the agreement on military chaplains for the West German army, despite our most serious warning, they smashed the last bridges for co-operation between the West German church leadership and the Government of the German Democratic Republic.

"We delayed a long time in applying the full consequences of this situation. Again and again we have considered whether there was not any possibility of avoiding or reversing the breach of relations between us, this breach which had been brought about by the exponents of the West German NATO church. Every path was blocked, however, as the result of the un-Christian game played by these West German church circles.

"I would like to emphasize that this has not affected in any way our relationship with the Evangelical Church in the GDR. We have declared our readiness to meet in many ways the wishes of the church representatives. This does not mean, however, that NATO politicians in clerical clothes such as Dibelius, Lilje and Kunst or nuclear war politicians like Herr Gerstenmaier should be allowed to be active in the German Democratic Republic. Both in the past and in the present they have shown that they are professional wolves in sheep's clothing and that they just want to make propaganda for the war policy of NATO.

"We shall be ready to review our attitude if the West German church leadership is ready to disassociate itself from NATO policy. A Christian church needs neither a NATO army nor nuclear arms.

"We regret the fact that the exponents of the West German church began the conflict with us. We would much prefer it if we could work together

with the theologians and church leaders in West Germany for peace and the future of our people. We have proved in the German Democratic Republic that such a co-operation between Christians and non-Christians is both possible and fruitful."

Police Harry Anti-Nazi Exhibits

Political police in Munich, West Germany, interfered in two exhibitions staged by anti-fascists in the city in mid-February. When an "Eichmann Exhibition" was opened on February 18th, the first visitors were detectives, who seized and impounded photostats showing the part played in Hitler's anti-Semitic programme by Dr Hans Globke, today State Secretary in the West German Government.

Two days earlier, Munich police seized posters advertising an exhibition on Nazi judges back in office in West Germany. The posters showed photographs of death sentences passed by Nazi judges; these death sentences were marked with a swastika, and the police claimed that they must be banned under a post-war law making it an offence to show the swastika in public.

Footnote: Herr Bauer, head of the Munich political police, was a Gestapo officer, and held the rank of captain in the SS.

No Hall for Niemoeller

Pastor Martin Niemoeller, President of the Evangelical Church in Hesse Province, West Germany, and outspoken atomic weapons opponent, was barred the use of a church hall for a speech on "God and the Atom Bomb" in the Ruhr city of Oberhausen. The local church group broke their contract for use of the hall when they discovered that the sponsors of the programme included the War Resisters' International and the socialist youth group "Die Falken" (The Falcons). The city authorities refused the use of a school auditorium for Pastor Niemoeller.

YOUTH, LOVE & HIT-TUNES

Socialist Unity Party Statement

Young people in the German Democratic Republic must be given more scope at work and more opportunities for play, the Politbureau of the Socialist Unity Party of the German Democratic Republic urged in a statement issued on February 11th.

The statement criticised the fact that many members of the older generation tended to judge young people by the clothes they wore and not by the work which they did. Young people have a right to wear smart clothes, to go dancing and to listen to hit tunes, the statement said.

Here are the main points from this Politbureau statement:

"Never before has the young generation had such a chance to play a leading part as it does today in our socialist democracy. Today all young people have every opportunity to develop their abilities and talents, to study, and to participate in the leadership of the state and the economy.

"Many young people in the German Democratic Republic are working devotedly for the victory of socialism. There are, however, young people who do not trouble their heads about the new aspects of our life, who just live for the day, and who sometimes take the wrong road ...

"Many young people accept the new social system in the German Democratic Republic as something which is self-evident. Both at home and from older colleagues they learn too little about the past, and often get a false picture of the past. When they see difficulties in socialist construction, and contrast this with their idea of socialism, they forget that the road to socialism is not a smooth one, and that socialism must be fought for. Our enemies do all they can to influence a part of the young people in our Republic by means of propaganda and slanders.

"This means that young people have many questions to ask, and sometimes inner conflicts. This in itself is not a bad thing but it is bad if the young people are left to solve this conflict by themselves, or if their questions are answered with impatience and with 'preachments'; this encourages young people to keep their mouths shut in order to avoid giving offence.

"Young people are quite right to ask where our path is leading us. We must answer the questions openly and honestly.

"A great majority of all young people do their job well, and in the factories and the fields new socialist men and women are developing. When the young people work without enthusiasm the reason is often that they have been wrongly and bureaucratically treated. Very often young workers and peasants are not given the jobs to which their talents would entitle them. In this regard the real situation lags behind the possibilities which exist in the German Democratic Republic."

The statement suggested that the trade unions should make a great effort to rectify this situation.

Turning to the situation in the high schools and universities the statement pointed out that nearly all pupils and students are members of the Free German Youth. "Many of them, however, do not act as real members should; they simply regard their membership as 'the done thing'. This is a great mistake. The Politbureau agrees with the Central Council of the Free German Youth that this problem must be discussed at the schools and universities and put in order. This will help to clarify the problems confronting young people, and will help to increase the activity of members of the Free German Youth. It is clear that no young person must be put at a disadvantage because he is not a member of the Free German Youth. Entrance to a university depends solely upon the educational, cultural and social work done by the young person concerned."

The statement dealt at length with the way in which young people wanted to spend their spare time.

"There are many unsolved problems in this field. The opportunities existing at present are often not of a sort likely to attract young people. Members of the older generation often show little understanding for the attitude of many young people. This is undoubtedly due to the fact that a certain portion of the youth often acts in a rowdy fashion, comes into conflict with the normal way of life, or even, urged on by our enemies, commits crimes. This small portion of the youth must not be confused with the great majority, and in addition our socialist society must see to it that every young person develops in a sensible way.

"The actions of young people are often judged too severely. Young people have a right to social gatherings, dances and music, films and plays, sports and outings.

"The fact that some young people choose curious clothes should not be taken as a measure of the way they think. It is quite clear that young people have a different taste from the older generation, and that they have different dances and methods of spending their spare time. We naturally oppose any sort of moral degeneration for our youth but we should not treat them as if we were governesses.

"We should judge young people by the way in which they work, the way in which they study, and the way in which they endeavor to become citizens of a socialist era. The new way of life of our socialist society includes not only education and culture but also recreation and happiness. It means being dressed in a modern and smart way, going dancing, listening to and playing good hit tunes, and encouraging talents in all fields. It includes getting to know each other and falling in love, and a decent relationship between young men and young women."

In conclusion the statement urged the opening of many more youth clubs, playing fields and dance halls. The Free German Youth was urged to overcome the often narrow nature of its work and to take more interest in the wishes of all young people.

Deputy Premiers Appointed

GDR Culture Minister Alexander Abusch, 59, was promoted to the job of Deputy Premier on February 24th. He will be responsible for cultural and educational questions in his new position. His successor as Minister for Culture is Hans Bentzien, 33.

Alexander Abusch worked on communist newspapers in Germany from 1921 until 1933, when he was forced to flee. In Paris he helped to write the famous "Brown Book" on the Hitler terror. After the nazis invaded France he escaped to Mexico, where he edited "Freies Deutschland" (Free Germany) until early 1946. He was appointed Minister for Culture in 1958.

Two weeks previously, Frau Grete Wittkowski was also appointed Deputy Premier, with prime responsibility for agriculture and supply. Frau Wittkowski was the first woman to be appointed to the post of Deputy Premier in the GDR.

MEET HERR MUELLER - GDR CAR-WORKER

By Allen Mann

How is life for an average car worker in the GDR? What are his problems and how does he get along? The best place to find out seemed the big nationally-owned Sachsenring factory in Zwickau, where last year 35,000 stubby little Trabant cars left the assembly line. (For details of the Trabant, see below.)

My first reaction on entering the long, narrow final assembly hall of the plant was to duck or jump. Plastic car bodies moved past me in all directions on their conveyor belts, assorted parts descended slowly at all angles from the ceiling and completed cars plunged down steep ramps.

Trying to get into conversation with the workers on the assembly line, I had the constant feeling that I was personally disrupting the whole Seven Year Plan — and recalled Charlie Chaplin holding up produc-

tion in his wonderful old film "Modern Times". So I turned a corner into a quieter, more relaxed department, where about 80 men and women were upholstering seats for the Trabant.

At one table, 8 men were at work; despite their loud jokes about the visitor with a suit and who he might be, I gulped and walked at random to one of them, a rather thin chap with greying hair who looked just under 40. I explained what I wanted, and the more I explained, the slower his big semi-circular needle moved; finally, he gave up work entirely. This is what he told me, partly at his work bench and partly in the room called "Smoker's Island" reserved for the men when they want to take a short break.

Helmut Mueller is his name and he was born in 1925 near Zwickau. His father had worked in the coal

mines — the main industry in this area. Like many miners he had not been pro-Hitler, but at the same time, like most Germans, had never done anything against him either.

At 14 (in 1939), Helmut Mueller had started his 3-year apprenticeship as an auto upholsterer. When finished, he worked for a year in a plane factory and was conscripted in 1943. He was sent to the Soviet front just in time to join in the retreat and finally surrendered with his outfit to the Red Army somewhere in Czechoslovakia. He remained a prisoner-of-war until 1948.

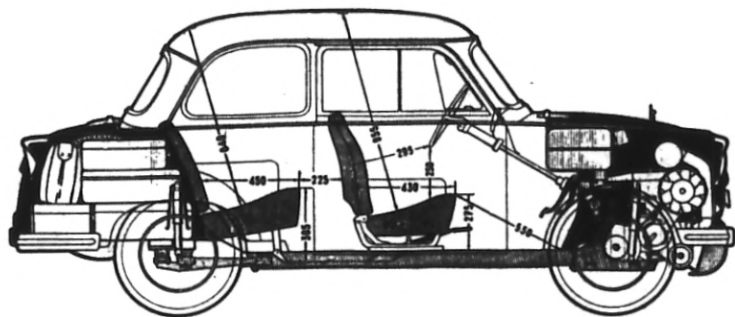
At this point in the story he pointed out with some bitterness that the war and its aftermath had cost him the five best years of his life, from the age of 18 to 23. This left him with a lasting hatred of war.

After his return to Zwickau he worked in a small upholstery firm till it went under in the chaos of the first post-war years. Finding no other job in his trade in those years, he worked as a moulder in a foundry until production got under way in the big car factory and he was able to work at his old trade again. That was in 1953, and he has not changed his job since then.

In the meantime he got married — and this meant more than one big change in his life. Through his wife and her father he became interested in religion — none other than the Baptist Church, which is quite small in Germany. He is today very religious, which means for him that he would not consider joining the Socialist Unity Party here; "I am no materialist", he told me. But he is in the union, like all but one of the 80 upholsterers. In fact, he holds a trade union job in his department — he is responsible for health insurance questions, visiting sick colleagues and checking on sickness pay.

He has two daughters, age 6 and 10, both at school, and his wife does not work because, as she says, "she owes it to her children" to stay at home.

Helmut Mueller is therefore the only breadwinner in the family. How does he earn his money?



Democratic Germany's Mini-Car

Democratic Germany's most popular car is the Trabant, a compact four-seater with an air-cooled two-stroke engine.

The cut-out picture of the car shows the relatively roomy interior, with a flat floor made possible by the front-wheel drive. Dimensions are shown in millimetres.

The nationally-owned Trabant Factory in Zwickau expects to turn out 39,000 Trabants this year, and this figure is

scheduled to rise to 65,000 or more by 1965.

The two-stroke 500 cc motor delivers 20 h.p., which will drive the Trabant, with four passengers, at a cruising speed of over 50 m.p.h., and a top speed of over 60 m.p.h.

A novel feature of the Trabant is that the coachwork is entirely made of plastic. The Trabant does over 40 miles to the gallon.

In the GDR the Trabant costs 7500 marks (just over £600) including tax.

There is only one shift in his department; from 7.45 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. with a morning break of 15 minutes at 9.00 and a half-hour lunch break at 12.00. (On Saturdays, work lasts till 1.00 p.m. which fills out a 45-hour work week.) The "norm" for making back seats — Herr Mueller's job — is about 4½ a day, but he can make about 9 a day. That means that like most workers here he can almost achieve a 200% fulfilment of his norm. Every day he adds up what he has done and then at the end of the month sums everything up. This brings him an average of about 600 marks a month, though of course the amount varies with his speed and the number of days in the month.

In addition, he receives an allotment of 20 marks for each child under 15. There are two main deductions from this total of about 645 marks, however. He pays 15-20 marks income tax and 60 marks for social insurance. Everyone here pays 10% of their wage or salary for this purpose — up to the maximum sum of 60 marks. The factory or other employer then adds the same amount, thus doubling the sum. This social insurance money covers all medical, hospital and sanatorium treatment, dental care, drugs and medicines, sick pay, accident insurance and old age pensions.

Herr Mueller's take-home pay thus averages approximately 550 marks or a little more. He gets it in two instalments — 200 marks in the middle of the month and the remainder at the end. Here is how he spends it, according to the rough estimates he made for me. (He does not keep an exact budget: "It doesn't stretch any further that way either", he said.)

His flat — two rooms plus a fairly large kitchen and a little backyard garden — costs him 28.30 marks a month in rent. Gas and electricity add up to 10 marks a month. Then come trade union dues — 8 marks a month. He also has a savings account taking 20 marks every month from his pay envelope. All four members of his family have a life insurance policy (his wife's will mature soon, bringing in a substantial sum). Together with fire, damages and liability insurance this costs 20 marks a month.

The biggest expense by far is for food and other household needs. He gives his wife 80 marks every week — about 350 a month. She spends this mainly for food but also tries to pay for things like shoe repairs and if possible to save 10 marks a month for travel or for Christmas and birthday presents.

He spends 10 marks a month for fares to work (he lives in a village about 5 miles from Zwickau) and keeps about 40 marks a month for pocket money. He gets hot meals in

the factory canteen, usually with meat, which cost 75 pfennigs a day or about 16 marks a month.

Here is a summary in round figures of his basic monthly expenses:

Rent	29 marks
Gas and electricity	10 marks
Union dues	8 marks
Saving account	20 marks
Insurance	20 marks
Food and household	350 marks
Fares	10 marks
Canteen meals	16 marks
Pocket money	40 marks
Total	503 marks

Whatever is left over pays for coal, new clothing, furniture, entertainment and other needs. "I can't go on any big splurges, you can see," he told me rather ruefully.

A certain help is provided by the bonuses, which most workers get every three months — if the plan is fulfilled in their department and in the plant as a whole. There are also special bonuses for work teams (brigades) or departments winning in various "socialist emulation" competitions. These sums vary greatly, but for Helmut Mueller they average about 80 marks every three months, plus a somewhat larger sum at the end of the year if the planned production is achieved. This may sometimes amount to 100 marks. Such bonuses help in buying new clothing or similar expenditures.

In this connection, I was curious to find out about his possessions. His kitchen is now fully furnished (without a refrigerator or washing machine, however — these are just beginning to become part of the home here). He has a bedroom suite and in the living room there is a big buffet or fancy cupboard which he paid for lately in instalments, plus a couch and armchairs, a harmonium for his daughter, bookshelves, a new carpet and a big radio. He pointed out that the harmonium was a gift from his father-in-law and that the carpets and new radio were bought with money they inherited about two years ago. The family also has a vacuum-cleaner.

As for clothing, he has three suits, two overcoats and four pairs of shoes in all and his wife has three coats — for summer, winter and spring or autumn. He could not recall how many dresses or pairs of shoes his wife had.

What does he do in his spare time? As member of a rather puritan church group he does not believe in dancing, and he is not particularly interested in sports, film or theatre. He does go to an occasional "pops" music concert and several times a year he and his wife go to the big Ring Café in Zwickau for an evening with music, coffee and cake. They also have

Free Offer



The cover picture shows a sample of the GDR products offered for sale at the Spring Fair in Leipzig this year. For a sample of GDR Review, the monthly illustrated magazine which tells about all features of life in Democratic Germany, write to:

GDR Review
Verlag Zeit im Bild
Spenerstrasse 21
Dresden A 19
German Democratic Republic

The publishers will be happy to send you copies and to give you information on subscribing. Since GDR Review is published in English, Danish, Swedish, French, Finnish, Spanish and German, please specify which language you prefer.

frequent visits from other members of his church — which entails quite an expense. They like especially to play rummy and party games on such occasions (no gambling). Otherwise he uses his free time to work in his little garden, play badminton with the girls or indulge in his favourite pursuit of reading the Bible and Bible commentaries.

A few other points should be mentioned in connection with his budget. Herr Mueller has a slight heart condition. In 1955 and again in 1958 one of the factory's ten medical specialists sent him on cures, first in a spa and then in a special sanatorium, both in beautiful mountain areas and once reserved for the rich. He received special baths, massages and other treatment. The train trip, the treatment, food and lodging were all completely free, and he received 90% of his average wages for the two four-week periods in addition. This is one example of the regular service paid for by the rather large monthly social insurance payments.

He has also had two summer holiday trips since he began working here. Last summer the whole family

went off to the Baltic seacoast for two weeks. The regular price for such trade union trips is 30 marks for union members and 75 marks for non-members; the price includes board and lodging for two weeks plus various cultural activities. In addition, union members get a 1/3 reduction on their holiday train fare. But Herr Mueller's trip to the seashore last summer was even cheaper. He only paid 180 marks for four people and paid no train-fare; this was because he had one of the less common social insurance holiday trips reserved for people in poor health or with low incomes and large families.

The regular trade union trips come to each family about once in five years in his department, he told me, unless they are willing to go in the wintertime. Winter trips are easier to get, since the holiday homes are not so filled. The network of trade union homes at seashore, lakeside and in the mountains is being constantly expanded so that more summer opportunities are available every year.

As for the children, they go to the factory summer camp for three weeks at negligible cost each summer (12 marks for one child; 18 marks for two children; 18 marks for three children; completely free of charge for four or more children.)

What are you planning for next summer, I asked, and what are your hopes for the future regarding larger purchases?

"Next summer the children will go to summer camp but we will probably stay at home and use the money we save to have our bedroom repainted and to buy a big linen cupboard. As for the future, I would like to buy a motor scooter. However, they cost 2300 marks and I only have 410 marks saved up as yet. Saving at the rate of 20 marks a month it will take quite a while yet. And you can't get motor scooters on the hire-purchase plan."

How typical is Helmut Mueller? I asked around a little amongst the other workers. At his table two of the eight men have motorcycles (youngsters without families to support, as Herr Mueller pointed out) and two have TV sets. A third is on the waiting list for a TV set.

I also compared Herr Mueller's wages with those of people in the assembly department. One young chap who puts on back axles told me he gets 560 marks before taxes. Not far away a woman of about 35 was busy fastening rear reflectors and chrome parts to the little car bumpers, using an electrical screw-driver. She earns up to 500 marks a month — minus 5 marks in taxes and up to 50 in social insurance. This is less than the two men because the job is less skilled,

not because she is a woman; she assured me that women received equal pay for equal work here as everywhere in the Republic, although in many cases they do not have the training for better paid jobs. Attempts are constantly being made to have more women qualify for better jobs. It also turned out that she is a member of the national Executive Board of the Metal Worker's Union, delegated by this factory and the district organisation.

I later discovered that the average monthly wage in the plant as a whole is 514 marks. What does that mean in terms of living standard?

A breadwinner with a non-working wife and children to support has to reckon carefully with his money and save for a long time to make any kind of larger purchase. One of the little Trabant cars (7500 marks) is out of the question, and a TV set (about 1500 marks) or a refrigerator (700 to 1700 marks) is still a question for the future. The people who buy these items in such numbers that production cannot keep up with demand belong to several categories — top-notch skilled workers (some make 900—1100 marks); young single workers with no-one to support; families where both husband and wife work (and leave their children in nurseries, kindergartens or after-school centres); finally, people with a technical or university education, a

group largely of working-class background today.

But even for workers like Helmut Mueller, where the wife does not work, there are certain important points to be stressed. Sickness and hospital expenses for the family are covered thoroughly. His children are guaranteed a good free education for at least ten years, plus a free college education with living expenses paid if they have the interest and ability. The children can always get a summer holiday in the country, and he can too, at least once in a while with the whole family together.

Two things are more important than all the rest in his economic situation, however. Production of all commodities is rising steadily, in many cases rapidly (TV sets, for example). Prices remain stable or drop slowly; they do not go up. Wages go up, slowly but steadily; they never go down. And there is absolutely no danger of losing a job. People at the Sachsenring factory in Zwickau only laughed when I asked about lay-offs. After much questioning I found that one department had indeed been sent home for one day last year because of a mechanical difficulty — but the workers involved received 90% of their average pay for that day. For Herr Mueller and his colleagues, full and regular production and a slowly, steadily rising living standard have become a matter of course.

GDR Aid for Legal Congo Government

The Government of the German Democratic Republic pledged aid for the legal Congo Government in Stanleyville in a telegram to Acting Prime Minister Antoine Gizenga on February 14th. The telegram was signed by Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council; Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister; and Johannes Dieckmann, Chairman of the People's Chamber. It expressed horror at the murder of Prime Minister Lumumba, and continued: "We assure the people of Congo that we shall increase our efforts to provide solidarity and help in their fight for independence".

Big demonstrations were held in all parts of the German Democratic Republic to protest the murder of Patrice Lumumba. Many of the meetings were addressed by students from Congo and other African countries now studying in the GDR.

In West Germany and West Berlin, police brutally broke up many protest

demonstrations in connection with the Congo murders. In Bonn, the West German capital, mounted police and high pressure hoses were used against a peaceful demonstration of African and Asian students which had been licenced by the authorities.

In New York, Carlo Schmid, Social Democratic Vice President of the West German Parliament, intervened personally against a demonstration protesting the murder of Lumumba. He was present in the public gallery of the Security Council on February 18th when demonstrators were forcibly removed by UN guards. After the melee, Carlo Schmid told a United Press reporter: "I have plenty of experience in this sort of thing, and I gave the poor guards tips how they should best deal with these characters." During World War Two Carlo Schmid served as an official of Nazi military government in Lille, occupied France.

NOTEBOOK AT LARGE

By Allen Mann

In January, GERMAN REPORT published a little questionnaire to find out what our readers want more or less of; a very large number asked for more articles about the life of an average working man in the GDR. As a result I took a trip to Zwickau (pronounced Tsvi-cow), mining and factory city with 133,000 inhabitants in southern Saxony, where a big car plant is located.

The man I found was named Mueller, which was certainly average enough, for in Germany the name is as common as Smith or Jones. But he turned out to be a very devout Baptist, which is not so average in the GDR, where Baptists are few in number and pious, Bible-reading Baptists in car factories are certainly very scarce. But Mueller really is his name, and it was pure chance that I picked on a Baptist for the article. (see page 37 for the results.)

I noticed quite a few smaller religious denominations in Zwickau. This is common in many mining communities; here religious dissent dates back at least to the 16th Century, when the people of Zwickau flocked to hear Martin Luther sooth after he nailed his famous theses to the church door in Wittenberg. A few years later they rallied around a great revolutionary preacher named Thomas Muenzer who went much further than Luther in his teachings and became a leader in the Peasant Wars (rather like Wat Tyler or John Ball in England).

Wherever I went in central Zwickau, I was reminded that it is still very much a mining centre. Rotating head frames at the mouths of the pits, smokestacks and the immense waste dumps dominate the whole city from across the Mulde River. This is unchanged since the old days, and coal mining is still the difficult, dangerous job it always was, with occasional pit disasters like the tragic one last year, almost under the city's streets, to make clear that even the strictest, most careful safety precautions cannot do away entirely with the risks of mining.

Other things have changed, however. Superficial, perhaps, yet also symbolic are the names of the mines and cokeries. There is the Karl Marx Mine, the August Bebel Mine (Bebel was a great Social Democrat who was jailed in Zwickau for opposing the Franco-Prussian War) and the Martin Hoop Mine, named after a communist leader tortured to death by the nazis

here in 1933. More important, the miners have become the country's favourite sons and receive top wages, top medical care and protection and better holiday and pension conditions than any other group of workers.

There have been many other changes in Zwickau, it was clear. The centre of town is now a paradox of tiny dark little streets and alleys clustering around the two main churches much as they did in the Middle Ages, and only a few steps farther brightly-lit shopping streets with new red-and-yellow trams and big buses racing along and crowds of people buying or window-shopping in the many modern department stores or special shops for sweets, clothing, foods, shoes, and other items.

Indeed, I found more life and bustle in Zwickau than in East Berlin, with ten times the population. I also found two articles which I had searched for in vain in East Berlin: the right size bedroom slippers for my little boy and the delicious tinned egg plant from Rumania, which was sold out in Berlin about a year ago, but which is still available in every grocery in Zwickau.

The centre of town also boasts a proudly-gabled, worthy old building on the market square, the home of Zwickau's main theatre. The programme featured Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors", Beethoven's "Fidelio" and a ballet programme while I was there. Not far away is the house where the great composer Robert Schumann was born, now a museum with a hall for smaller concerts. There is no forgetting Robert Schumann during a visit to Zwickau, for he was the city's only son to achieve world fame.

The first night of my stay in the mining town was especially lively, to say the least. It was Fasching, the German equivalent of "Carnival" or "Mardi Gras", and although Catholic Bavaria and the Rhineland are most famed for their celebrations of this last wild binge before Lent, the youth of Zwickau seemed to want to give them a go at competing. All day long troops of little costumed children, smeared with an extraordinary amount of grease-paint and lipstick, wandered through the town and into stores, hotels and anyplace else they could slip their way. The costumes varied from old-fashioned witches to more modern astronauts, but be-

feathered American Indians seemed to predominate. Then after about 4.00 p.m. the 14-to-18 year olds took over, also in costume, parading through the quaint little streets of the town in groups ranging from 5 to 85, usually with a few harmonica-players, accordionists, drummers or other "musicians". Their repertoire ranged from old miners' songs to the latest hit tunes.

It was nice to see that they were neither fresh nor nasty but merely loud and jolly, and that the adults seemed to look upon them with no ill-will. I didn't either until I finally tried to get some sleep, but since my hotel room faced on a main street, I must admit to wearying of the Fasching revels long before a large number of the merry-makers.

Editor John Peet, crowded into a corner by Allen Mann's trip to the provinces, fills up the page:

I don't generally recommend people to read any of the publications put out by American press tycoon Henry R. Luce, but I must make an exception for the copies of "Life" magazine with a document which is presented as Eichmann's own account of his crimes. The "Eichmann Confession" is a chilling display of the fantastic state of mind of the man who ran Hitler's mass murder programme: Eichmann keeps on insisting that he saw to it that the millions of Jews whom he sent to their death were decently treated on their road to the gas-chamber. He does not worry about mass murder; but it must be efficient and well-organised.

The confession is printed in the January 9th and February 13th issues of "Life International". There is one very interesting omission from the series: none of Eichmann's collaborators are mentioned except those who are dead.

And thereby hangs a tale. According to rumours in journalistic circles (and these rumours are often surprisingly accurate) the original manuscript of Eichmann's confession, purchased for a big sum by "Life" in June 1960, was larded with names of the men who helped him. Before publication of the document, "Life" editors went through it with a fine-toothed comb taking out any reference to persons, including Dr Hans Globke, West German State Secretary, who today occupy leading positions in West German government and business.